



Arkansas Department of Human Services

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education



State Pre-K (ABC) Unit

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Arkansas Better Chance/Arkansas Better Chance for School Success Program Update: November 8, 2011

Subject: Dismissal or Expulsion of Children

To: ABC Centers ABC Family Homes	From: Tonya Russell, Director Paige Cox, State Pre-K/ABC Program Administrator
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Regulations:

14.01 No child in ABC shall be dismissed or expelled from the program for behavior without approval from DCCECE.

14.02 Discipline shall reflect positive guidance, be consistent and individualized for each child. Such discipline shall be appropriate to the child's level of understanding. Corporal punishment is an unacceptable method of discipline and shall not be used. Programs shall specifically define their approach to handling inappropriate behavior in the ABC parent handbook.

Purpose:

This clarification is provided to ensure intervention strategies, for a child who is an imminent danger to himself or others are timely and effective. It is the intent of the Division to enable programs to address situations in which an imminent danger exists in a timely manner, while meeting administrative responsibilities. This clarification does not pertain to those instances when a child is "non-compliant" or exhibiting behaviors that are age appropriate, and for which appropriate classroom interventions can be effective.

Definitions:

- The terms "dismissed" and "expelled" are defined as a permanent discharge of the child and as such require prior approval from the State Pre-K/ABC Program Administrator within the Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education.
- The term "imminent danger" refers to an immediate serious risk of harm.

Procedures:

Steps to be completed when a child must be removed temporarily for challenging behaviors that constitute an imminent danger to the child or others follow:

- Document challenging behaviors and interventions attempted using a behavior tracking log and maintain log on premises.
- **Notify the Division within 24 hours after the temporary removal via an email to the ABC Program Specialist.** Include notice of the action taken (removal to home) and the specific reasons for removal as an imminent danger to the child or others.
- Make a referral to the agency responsible for early childhood special education services in local area. If a child's behavior is such that it necessitates temporary removal on a repeated basis, there should be sufficient documentation for consideration of special education services.
- Maintain documentation on file of the outcomes of the incident, subsequent parent conference, and plan developed that includes appropriate intervention strategies. The purpose of the parent conference is to develop a plan jointly with the family and available resources, to address the specific behaviors which constitute an imminent danger (recurring violence, behavior, or aggression).